

PIBO Migration Summary

June 1st - 10th , 2012



Tennessee Warbler

PIBO's 10th spring migration monitoring season at Fish Point Provincial Nature Reserve concluded on June 10th after 68 consecutive days of coverage from April 4th. Songbird activity tapered off at the Point in early-June and it was generally quiet from the 1st - 10th with the exception of a variety of shorebirds at the tip on most days, some lingering migrant flycatchers, thrushes and warblers, and ones-and-twos of a range of other species. Shorebirds included Semipalmated Plovers and Sandpipers, Dunlins, Sanderlings, and Ruddy Turnstones. Species diversity at the station peaked at 40 on June 3rd and dipped to 27 on the 9th. With the exception of some Yellow-bellied, Least, and 'Traill's' Flycatchers, Magnolia Warblers, and a few others, most of the forest birds recorded at the station during the last ten days of coverage were local nesters.

PIBO's netting effort wrapped-up on June 5th after 44 mornings of operation starting on April 13th. In all, 863 birds of sixty-three species were captured and 56 individuals were recaptured in 1978 net-hours, for an average catch-rate of 46 birds/100 net-hours. An interesting array of birds were banded including 24 warbler species (Worm-eating, Hooded, Orange-crowned, Blue-winged), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Rusty Blackbird, among others. A total of 159 species was recorded at Fish Point during PIBO's standard count period from April 4th - June 10th compared to a five-year average of 168. Five staff and volunteers contributed 432 field-hours to the spring migration program.

Twenty-nine warbler species were tallied on the island this spring by staff and volunteers along with a variety of other notable species including Least Bittern, Willet, Lesser Black-backed and Iceland Gull, Sora, and Northern Mockingbird. There were no species added to PIBO's station banding list in April/May, which stands at 109, and no new species were observed on the island by staff and volunteers.

It was an enjoyable and productive spring and much was accomplished thanks to the ongoing help and encouragement of PIBO's many generous friends, funders, volunteers, and the community. From all of us at the bird observatory - thank you for your support!

PIBO's 1st fall migration summary will be posted on August 12th.

Photo: Sumiko Onishi